

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

ISSUE #43

August 2014

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all CARTS members,

I hope all of you are having a nice summer. Things are nice here in central South Carolina. We seem to be getting a good supply of rain, and that is helping to keep the temperatures down somewhat.

Action in the collecting area is somewhat subdued also. High summer is definitely NOT coin show season in South Carolina. We have no shows planned here until after Labor Day. I am thankful for the few items that pop up on eBay, though. You guys from North Carolina are seeing some nice things coming up for bid. Tokens from the Steve Tanenbaum collection have been appearing with some regularity. And also, I've noticed just recently, are items which seem to be from the Chuck Kirtley collection. These should gain some nice attention, especially if they continue over time.

Don Bailey tells me that he has obtained some rental space for our Fall meeting in the Spartanburg area. See message from Don opposite for particulars on the time and place.

That's it for now. See you guys in November!

Tony Chibbaro
President of CARTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

First, in regard to the May meeting in Clemmons (due apologies to Dickens), it was the best of times, it was the worst of times. I was able to add 7 tokens to my North Carolina collection. I also added a really nice token to my collection of peanut tokens. But the Clemmons meeting produced the smallest attendance of any CARTS meeting to date—only 5 members! Treasurer Bob King reported a balance of \$678.59.

Our next meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 161 Sha Lane, Spartanburg, SC on November 8. This is in the northeast corner of the intersection of I-85 and highway 221. (Detailed directions in the next issue.) We have the room from 8:00 AM 'til noon. Here's hoping for a better turn out this time!

Contact Information:

Don Bailey

PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729

e-mail: ELADON@MORRISBB.NET

Tony Chibbaro

PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29217

e-mail: CHIBBARO@MINDSPRING.COM

Bob King

709 Cardinal Dr., Brevard, NC 28712

e-mail: TOKENADDICT@CITCOM.NET

Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know!
Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!

North Carolina Collector

Buyer of NC Singles or Collections
Trader list for all state tokens
Enthusiastic researcher

Robert S. King, 709 Cardinal Dr.
Brevard, NC 28712

828-883-8028 tokenadict@citcom.net

Want to buy southern states tokens. You price or I will make an offer, your, choice. I don't make flea market offers. Pay top dollar for tokens I need and top wholesale for tokens I have.

I want mavericks and one is fine. Give me a chance, we will make a deal.

Active buyer of R. G. Dun and Bradstreet
1963 & newer
Need 1882, 1884 & 1897
Need a complete national book for 1910, 1911 or 1912.

TOKENS IN SOUTHERN TEXTILE CULTURE: A LITEFRARY REFERENCE

Lamar Bland

Recently the following token was for sale on Ebay.



Photos courtesy Tony Chibbaro

It caught my attention because I remember reading about this mill's management in an astonishing chapter of Rick Bragg's memoir, *THE MOST THEY EVER HAD* (2009). The

book is about the mill in his hometown—Jacksonville, Alabama.

In Chapter 3, "The Kingdom," Bragg writes about William Ivan Greenleaf, who owned Profile Cotton. He had come to Jacksonville from New Hampshire in 1911. The two bracketed paragraphs which follow describe Greenleaf's management style and the results it brought. They are quoted verbatim from the memoir.

[A lot of people hated him, but never so much as in '33. A new president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, signed legislation that made child labor and starvation wages illegal in the textile mills. Greenleaf, who paid the lowest wages in Calhoun County, smirked at the new national minimum of twelve dollars a week, and thumbed his nose at what he called the "damned socialists". He expected his employees to shop only at the company store with their metallic script, tokens called "clinkers." Greenleaf also owned Westside Drug....(A worker reported that) his father was paid in steel tokens and earned less than his family ate, less than he owed.]

[Finally, when the people were mad enough, they went after their tormenter. They fetched Greenleaf from a closet and bore him to Big Spring, to the hanging tree. He didn't seem to weigh all that much for a big shot, and they slung him from man to man like a rag doll as they cursed, laughed, and hooted. When they slipped the rope over his head the crowd screamed, and women in faded flower-print dresses pushed children behind them, so they could not see. In the glow of a hundred torches, they raised him high, their scarred arms and mutilated fingers his gallows. His face was covered with a toe sack, but they hung a sign around his neck so everyone would know: GREENLEAF. Then they let him drop.]

In this amazing detail, Bragg shows the depth of worker suffering and anger when a mill

owner is paternalistic. It is an extreme characterization—but honest. In a historical study, *MOMENTS OF DESPAIR: SUICIDE, DIVORCE, AND DEBT IN CIVIL WAR ERA NORTH CAROLINA* (U.N.C. Press, 2011), David Silkenat writes that because of their “remote locations” textile mills and mining companies were the “most exploitative” in such a use of scrip.

I have previously published CARTSNEWS articles about how country stores used scrip in western North Carolina. Families could use store tokens (received from bartering their cider, canned vegetables, or game), to buy fuel, clothing, or food staples. They could buy seeds and fertilizer with tokens earned from an earlier exchange of goods they harvested (tree barks, berries, or ginseng vines, for example). I found that stores used scrip for mutual enrichment. Not for gaining control over employee’s lives.

Bragg concludes Greenleaf’s hanging with these sentences: “It helped a little, what they had done. It gave their hatred a place to swing. But how truly satisfying can it be, to hang a tyrant of rags and straw.”

So Greenleaf the person wasn’t really hung!!!

There are, of course, impressive examples of beneficence and philanthropy among Southern mill owners. But with this symbolic narrative, Bragg acknowledges how tokens could be instruments for this darker side of textile practice.

The Victor-Monaghan Co’s. Walhalla Plant

Tony Chibbaro

All major industries go through distinct phases of development, and textile manufacturing in the South is no exception. Those of us who have paid attention to the news over the past 35 years are all too aware of its decline and

eventual banishment overseas. Now our shirts and pants are made in Asia instead of the Carolinas. But 100 years ago the industry had just finished a phase of rapid growth and was embarking on a phase of consolidation. Individual mills were being purchased by corporations who shepherded over multiple factories, in hopes that economies of scale could provide a competitive edge over their contemporaries.



Victor Monaghan Co., Walhalla Plant spooling token, 31mm, brass

The token pictured above highlights the consolidation that occurred in the industry. I obtained it in February 2014 at the Columbia bottle show. It was unknown to me prior to that, although a similar token exists which I will illustrate later. As can be seen in the photograph, the token was issued by the Victor Monaghan Company at their Walhalla Plant in Walhalla, SC. The Victor Monaghan Company was incorporated in 1917 with M.C. Branch as president and W.E. Beattie as treasurer. The company was comprised of two groups of South Carolina mills: the Victor Group, which was composed of Victor Mills and Greer Mills in Greer, as well as Apalache Mills in Arlington, Wallace Mills in Jonesville, and Ottaray Mills in Union; and the Monaghan Group, which included Monaghan Mills in Greenville, Seneca Mills in Seneca, and Walhalla Mills in Walhalla. These eight mills contained some 6300 looms and a quarter of a million spindles and were valued at over 9 million dollars. Employment was almost 3000 workers.

It is interesting to note that the Victor Monaghan Company was, in fact, a reorganization of a larger conglomerate called the Parker Group. Lewis and Thomas Parker, cousins and business partners, had enjoyed success in the cotton industry for over 10 years when they announced that they would merge a group of 14 mills in South Carolina. So, in 1911, the Parker Cotton Mills Company was formed by merging the aforementioned Victor and Monaghan Groups with a third set of mills called the Hampton Group. The latter assemblage was comprised of several factories in Columbia, along with additional mills in Chester, Camden and Edgefield. But Lewis Parker's resignation in 1914 and a declining market due to repercussions from World War I left the corporation in receivership. It was then that M.C. Branch, a Richmond banker, and W.E. Beattie, president of Piedmont Manufacturing Company, stepped in to pick up the pieces. By then, however, the Hampton Group had been sold off at bargain basement prices.

The mill in Walhalla, which had been chartered as Walhalla Cotton Mills in 1895 by a group of Oconee County businessmen, was one of the smaller components of the Victor Monaghan firm. With only 540 looms and 15,000 spindles in 1907, the plant employed about 250 operatives. For at least 10 years of the mill's early existence, it was ably led by Edwin R. Lucas, who functioned as the company's president, treasurer, and chief cotton buyer. After the merger with the Parker Group, Lucas left for the chief post at a mill in Chester. The Walhalla mill, which produced print cloths and sheeting, operated for the next 30 years under the stewardship of the Parker Cotton Mills Company and, later, the Victor Monaghan Company. In the mid-1940s, the plant was purchased by Simon Brothers, a real estate partnership, who swapped it to pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson for the drug firm's interest in a 43-story New York City skyscraper. At that time the mill

was equipped with 32,000 spindles and 750 looms and Johnson & Johnson made the plant part of their Chicopee Mills Division.

The mill operated under the Chicopee banner for the next 50 years or so, employing over 1000 operatives at its peak. In fact, most Walhalla natives know the mill by the Chicopee name rather than Walhalla Cotton Mills or Victor Monaghan Company, although it was most recently owned by Avondale Mills of Georgia. The plant closed in 2007, another victim of globalization, and the buildings were sold to Reagan Salvage in November 2011.



Walhalla Cotton Mills spooling token, 32mm, aluminum

The token illustrated immediately above was issued for use at the same textile plant as the one pictured earlier. It can be dated to before 1911, because the company's name is shown as Walhalla Cotton Mills and not Victor Monaghan Company or Parker Cotton Mills Company. It is also interesting to note that both tokens feature the same reverse inscription - "Spooling Credit For One Box." Today they are called production tokens or work tallies, but back then they were probably called spooling checks. They were given to mill operatives when a certain amount of work was performed, in this case after filling a wheeled bin (called a box) with spools of yarn. These spools were not what we recall our mothers and grandmothers using at the sewing machine. These were elongated wooden spools, about 10 inches long, that fit inside the large wooden shuttles used in conjunction with the looms in the weaving room. The spools were loaded with yarn in the spooling room

and were transported to the weaving room in the aforementioned wheeled bins. At the end of the day, the worker turned in his accumulation of tokens to his supervisor or paymaster and his day's wages were calculated accordingly.

The mill in Walhalla also had a company store and tokens were used there, too. A series of Master Metal Scrip tokens manufactured by the Ingle Schierloh Company was put into circulation in 1930. This was when the mill was being run by the Victor Monaghan Company, but the tokens only cited Walhalla Mill Store in their inscription. Today all of these tokens are extremely rare, both the company store tokens and the spooling checks illustrated above. Known by only a single example are \$1.00, 25¢, 10¢, and 1¢ company store tokens, as well as the two spooling checks. Sounds like someone needs to take a metal detector to Walhalla and see what can be found!

New Finds from South Carolina

Tony Chibbaro

Last month I traveled to Abbeville, SC to meet with the attorney handling the estate of deceased coin dealer Dale Hopkins. Some of you may remember Dale, as he frequented many coin shows in South Carolina and Georgia. He also had a coin shop in Greenwood, which he operated for many years. So many years, in fact, that he had accumulated a vast inventory of numismatic items that was stacked up chest high behind the counters in his shop. I'm sure that the boxes near the bottom had not been opened in decades. I purchased many good tokens from Dale over the years and have always dreamed of what had been squirreled away in those boxes. He very seldom brought any tokens with him to shows, I always had to travel to

his shop in Greenwood to see what he had in the way of exnumia.

The purpose of my visit to Abbeville was to take a look at all the tokens that had been found in Dale's shop. I had great hopes of finding multiple, previously-unknown, South Carolina tokens and I guess my trip was successful in that regard, if one considers two examples as being multiple. The first new token that I encountered is pictured below.



J.A. Ridgell 10¢ token, 21mm, brass

When I first saw this token, my initial thought was that it was an unlisted issue of the Ridgell Drug Company of Batesburg, SC. After doing a bit of research, though, I discovered that it was not related to the aforementioned drug store in any way. Nor was it actually issued in Batesburg, even though the token itself proclaims such. James A. Ridgell (1860-1937) lived his whole life in Mount Willing, SC, which was located about 10 miles north of Batesburg, just across the Saluda County line. Ridgell's general store was listed in business directories from 1906 until his death in 1937, continuously under the heading of Mount Willing and occasionally under the heading of Batesburg, albeit with the added notations "*near*" or "*8 miles north.*" The address on the token is shown as Batesburg RFD because Mount Willing did not have a post office and all mail came via Batesburg (as well as telephone service and express deliveries). (NB: RFD is an abbreviation for *Rural Free Delivery*, which denotes rural route mail delivery.) Besides operating a country store and a farm, Ridgell, for a time, also operated a sawmill. And, it is interesting to note, that he

was elected for a two-year term as sheriff of Saluda County in 1901.



Major's Garage battery token, 38mm, aluminum

The other token I obtained from Dale's estate has suffered some indignities over the years and is not presentable enough for a photograph. Rescued from the ground by some unknown relic hunter, it is illustrated above, sans holes and corrosion. Issued by J.

Frank Major (1900-1933) of Greenwood, SC, the token was "good for 25¢ on a recharge or \$1.00 on a new battery." Major had been working on automobiles for a living since he was a teenager and was only 23 years old when he opened his own garage in 1923. His business lasted for some 6 years, but was closed in 1929 when he took a job as a mechanic for Southern Railway. That same year, he moved his wife Mary Lou (age 29) and daughter Lucille (age 2) with him to Chattanooga, TN. But in 1933, after an extended illness Frank Major died at the age of 32. He was buried near his boyhood home in Coronaca, SC, about 5 miles northeast of Greenwood.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

WILL PAY \$250 FOR A MAVERICK TOKEN FROM THE ARUNDEL MERCANTILE COMPANY. Also looking for other rare South Carolina tokens. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127, phone: 803-530-3668, email: chibbaro@mindspring.com

NEW MEMBERS. You know what a great newsletter we have, and what great meetings occur twice a year. Let your buddies in on the fun. Recruit a member.

SALE OR TRADE

COWPENS MILLS STORE TOKENS. Limited time. Complete 1932 set—1c, 5 c, 10 c, 25 c, 50 c, and \$1 all six for \$50.00. Ask about the 1933 set. Chuck Stroud 1152 Burnt Gin Road, Gaffney, SC 29340 helo182@live.com

SPECIAL NOTE

Accompanying this month's issue of CARTSNEWS is a table of contents for the first 10 years of issue. In each case, if the title of an article does not make clear what token or tokens the article discusses, those tokens are listed immediately below the title. There's a great deal of great stuff in these first 40 issues. Hard to believe we've been going so long! Let's hope there will be 40 more issues!

CARTS Membership and Dues: Application for membership in CARTS is invited from anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer, Bob King. Checks should be made payable to CARTS.

CARTSNEWS: CARTSNEWS, the newsletter of CARTS, is published four times per year in February, May, August, and November.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected. Deadline for classified ads is the same as for paid ads (see below).

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose ads from your rough copy if you desire. As with free advertising the editor may reject any ad thought not in the best interest of CARTS or the hobby at large.